

Livestock and Dairy

Cattle and Calves

Virginia's Cattle and Calf numbers declined slightly after two years of relative stability. All cattle and calves in the Commonwealth as of January 1, 2003, totaled 1.63 million head, down 1 percent from last year. Beef cow inventory decreased by one percent to 682,000 head compared to last year's 690,000 head. Milk cow inventory decreased two percent from last year's 120,000 head to 118,000 this year. The total inventory of cows that have calved was 800,000, down one percent from last year's total of 810,000. Other groups include beef cow replacements which were unchanged from last year, milk cow replacement heifers decreased by 20 percent, other heifers decreased by 4 percent, steers increased by 9 percent, bulls were unchanged from last year, and calves showed a 3 percent decrease from last year.

Milk Production

Milk Production in Virginia totaled 1.891 billion pounds in 2002 which was virtually unchanged from 2001. Milk produced per cow declined from last year's 15,975 pounds to 15,758 pounds in 2002. The value of milk production decreased 16 percent from 2001 and was 268.5 million dollars.

Sheep and Lambs

Sheep and Lamb inventory in Virginia totaled 62,000 head on January 1, 2003, up 3,000 head compared to last year. There were 1,500 farms with sheep, comprising, 2 percent of the national total. Ewes one year and older totaled 38,000 head, up 1,000 head from a year earlier. There were 6,500 replacement lambs on the first of the year, down 500 from last year. The 2002 lamb crop increased by 10 percent to 55,000 head. Sheep and lambs on feed for market slaughter increased by 2,000 head to 14,000. Virginia ranks 26th in the nation for total number of sheep.

Hogs and Pigs

There were 400,000 Hogs and Pigs in Virginia as of December 1, 2002. This was down 4 percent from a year earlier. Breeding hog inventory totaled 35,000 head and market hogs totaled 365,000 head. Market hogs inventory was down 4

percent compared to December 1, 2001. The 2002 pig crop totaled 539,000, up 9 percent from last year. Sows farrowed was at 59,000 head, up 9 percent compared to December 1, 2001. The average pigs per litter was down slightly from last year. There were 1,100 farms raising hogs, the same as last year.

